

November 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

**RE: Docket 5043 - National Grid's Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation Data Requests – Set 2**

Dear Ms. Massaro:

I have enclosed an electronic version of National Grid's¹ responses to the Conservation Law Foundation's ("CLFs") Second Set of Data Requests in the above-referenced docket.²

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 781-907-2121.

Very truly yours,



Raquel J. Webster

Enclosures

cc: Docket 5043 Service List
Leo Wold, Esq.
Al Mancini, Division
John Bell, Division

¹ The Narragansett Electric Company d/b/a National Grid (National Grid or the Company).

² Per Commission counsel's update on October 2, 2020, concerning the COVID-19 emergency period, the Company is submitting an electronic version of this filing. The Company is also providing the Commission Clerk with five (5) hard copies of the enclosures.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5043
In Re: Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation's Second Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 2, 2020

CLF 2-1

Request:

Section III.D.2. of National Grid's Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan for the Forecast Period 2019/20 to 2023/24 (attached hereto as Attachment 1), submitted July 2, 2019 in RIPUC Docket No. 4816, forecasted growth in sendout requirements for natural gas of 1,297 MDth between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024. Section III.D.2. of National Grid's pending Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan projects growth in sendout requirements of 2,474 MDth between 2019/2020 and 2023/2024. Please describe each of the factors that are responsible for the difference in projected growth over the 2019/2020–2023/2024 forecast period between the Long-Range Plan submitted July 2, 2019 in RIPUC Docket No. 4816 and the Long-Range Plan submitted June 30, 2020 in the instant docket, detail the impact that each factor had on the increased projected growth, and provide any working papers reflecting associated calculations.

Response:

The principal factor causing a higher growth rate in the Company's 2020Q2 forecast relative to its 2019Q2 forecast is the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the Company's 2019 LRP¹, on page 12, the Company presented its normal year Sales, FT-2, and FT-1 pipeline requirements from 2018/19 to 2023/24 (reproduced in Table 1). The growth in total sendout requirements from 2019/20 to 2023/24 is 1,297 MDth (37,924 MDth minus 36,627 MDth).

¹ Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan for the Forecast Period 2019/20 to 2023/24, submitted July 2, 2019 in RIPUC Docket No. 4816.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5043

In Re: Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation’s Second Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 2, 2020

CLF 2-1, page 2

	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Heating Season	25,741	25,841	25,995	26,220	26,441	26,796
Non-Heating Season	10,725	10,786	10,873	10,961	11,100	11,128
Total	36,466	36,627	36,868	37,181	37,541	37,924
Per-Annum Growth		161	241	313	360	383
Per-Annum Growth (%)		0.4%	0.7%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%

Table 1

In the Company’s 2020 LRP², on page 12, the Company presented its normal year Sales, FT-2, and FT-1 pipeline requirements from 2019/20 to 2024/25 (reproduced in Table 2). The growth in total sendout requirements from 2019/20 to 2023/24 is 2,476 MDth (38,703 MDth minus 36,227 MDth).

	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>
Heating Season	25,796	25,505	26,045	26,855	27,470	27,485
Non-Heating Season	10,431	10,646	10,986	11,235	11,232	11,269
Total	36,227	36,152	37,031	38,091	38,703	38,755
Per-Annum Growth	-	-75	879	1,059	611	52
Per-Annum Growth (%)	-	-0.2%	2.4%	2.9%	1.6%	0.1%

Table 2

² Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25, submitted June 30, 2020 in RIPUC Docket No. 5043.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5043

In Re: Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation's Second Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 2, 2020

CLF 2-1, page 3

The volumes presented in the two tables above reflect only portion of the total natural gas deliveries by the Company. Table 3 below shows the total wholesale deliveries forecasted in the Company's 2019Q2 and 2020Q2 forecasts by planning year (November through October).

Comparison of 2019Q2 and 2020Q2 Wholesale Requirements National Grid RI; Normal Year (Dth)						
2020Q2 Wholesale	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Sales	#N/A	28,705,249	28,669,989	29,322,941	30,134,675	30,680,962
FT-2	#N/A	4,414,814	4,404,944	4,544,966	4,693,510	4,742,849
FT-1	#N/A	3,368,859	3,331,645	3,423,483	3,532,897	3,552,993
CE	#N/A	5,261,374	5,117,940	5,318,699	5,594,372	5,671,074
<u>NF</u>	<u>#N/A</u>	<u>1,765,553</u>	<u>1,695,812</u>	<u>1,751,806</u>	<u>1,806,053</u>	<u>1,801,181</u>
Total	#N/A	43,515,849	43,220,330	44,361,895	45,761,506	46,449,059
2019Q2-LRP Wholesale	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Sales	28,130,390	28,044,747	28,265,688	28,553,271	28,878,238	29,239,219
FT-2	4,766,534	4,917,924	4,932,193	4,948,051	4,970,211	4,983,047
FT-1	3,702,929	3,803,291	3,809,858	3,818,827	3,832,831	3,842,193
CE	6,147,151	6,241,677	6,241,986	6,249,067	6,263,688	6,271,448
<u>NF</u>	<u>1,909,042</u>	<u>1,944,114</u>	<u>1,949,454</u>	<u>1,956,356</u>	<u>1,965,426</u>	<u>1,970,849</u>
Total	44,656,047	44,951,754	45,199,179	45,525,572	45,910,394	46,306,756

Table 3

Total wholesale deliveries are comprised of:

- Sales (volumes to its Sales customers),
- FT-2 (volumes to its FT-2 capacity-eligible transportation customers),
- FT-1 (volumes to its FT-1 capacity-eligible transportation customers),
- CE (volumes to its FT-1 capacity-exempt transportation customers), and,
- NF (volumes to its non-firm sales and transportation customers).

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5043
In Re: Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation's Second Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 2, 2020

CLF 2-1, page 4

The values for the 2020Q2 forecast can be found on tab 'Normal-RI-NovOct_EconSoRI' of the Company's Attachment to its response to Data Request Division 2-9. The values for the 2019Q2 forecast are on the equivalent tab in the Company's 2019 worksheet.

In its 2019Q2 forecast, the Company forecasted a total of 44,951,754 Dth for the planning year November 2019 – October 2020. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Rhode Island economy can be seen in the corresponding time period in the 2020Q2 forecast with a forecasted load of 43,515,849 Dth, a 3.2 percent reduction. By planning year 2023/24, both forecasts converge with a total load of between 46.3 and 46.4 million Dth reflecting the restoration of the Rhode Island economy, post-COVID. With the reduction of volumes in 2019/20 in the 2020Q2 forecast relative to its 2019Q2 forecast and with both forecasts converging in 2023/24, the growth rate of the Company's normal year wholesale volume in its 2020Q2 forecast is higher than its 2019Q2 counterpart.

The Narragansett Electric Company
d/b/a National Grid
RIPUC Docket No. 5043
In Re: Gas Long-Range Resource and Requirements Plan
for the Forecast Period 2020/21 to 2024/25
Responses to Conservation Law Foundation's Second Set of Data Requests
Issued on November 2, 2020

CLF 2-2

Request:

In the Company's Responses to Conservation Law Foundation's First Set of Data Requests, it explained that its design year standard "was based on a statistical analysis of the calendar year annual HDD values for 40 years: 1978 – 2017." Please provide the data used to conduct this statistical analysis, and calculate:

- a. the average annual number of HDDs over the full period (1978 - 2017);
- b. the average annual number of HDDs over the first half of the period (1978 - 1997); and
- c. the average annual number of HDDs over the second half of the period (1998-2017).

Response:

a. – c.

In the Excel Attachment CLF 2-2, the Company provides its daily heating degree day ("HDD") data for the T.F. Green International Airport weather station (KPVD) for the period January 1, 1978 through December 31, 2017 for all non-leap day days. The Company uses a moving 40-year period of data to determine its design standards. The average annual HDD values are:

- For 1978-2017: 5,557 HDD
- For 1978-1997: 5,700 HDD
- For 1998-2017: 5,414 HDD

Excel Attachment CLF 2-2 also includes a chart of the calendar year HDD data.